

Appl. No. 10/682,443
Amdt. dated November 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A motorized flosser comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and opposed first and second ends, and a hollow portion;
 - a power supply located within the hollow portion of the elongated body;
 - a replaceable flosser head having a base removably connected to the first end of the elongated body,
 - a yoke extending from the base of the flosser head having a pair of spaced tines between which extends a piece of flexible flossing material, wherein the tines are configured to space the piece of flexible flossing material from the longitudinal axis of the elongated body; and
 - said power supply being connected to the flosser head wherein upon activation, the power supply causes oscillation of the flosser head and flexible flossing material.
- 2.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 1 wherein the flosser head further comprises a flexible toothpaste holder.

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3.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 2 further comprising a bite pad secured to said first end of said elongated body.

4.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 1 wherein the power supply includes a motor and a battery.

5.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 1 further comprising a locking mechanism for removably securing the flossing head to the body.

6.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 5 wherein the flosser head oscillates at a frequency of 2800 cycles per minute.

7.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 3 wherein the toothpaste holder is generally of a truncated conical shape.

8.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The motorized flosser of claim 6 wherein the locking mechanism includes a slidable locking member adapted to fit over said circular disk of ~~said~~ a base of said flosser head.

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9.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 1 wherein the flosser head oscillates at a frequency of between 2000 and 3000 cycles per minute.

10.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 1 wherein the flosser head oscillates through an arc of between 30 and 75 degrees.

11.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 1 wherein the flosser head oscillates through an arc of approximately 60 degrees.

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12.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A motorized flosser comprising:

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and opposed first and second ends, and
a hollow portion;

a motor located within the hollow portion of the elongated body;

a pin extending upwardly from the first end and operatively coupled to the motor so
that activation of said motor causes said pin to oscillate; and

a flosser head removably connected to the first end of the elongated body, the flosser
head comprising a base having a receptacle adapted to receive said pin, a pair of spaced
tines extending upwardly from the base and a piece of floss extending between the tines;

wherein the tines are configured to space the piece of floss from the longitudinal axis
of the elongated body;

wherein activation of the motor causes the flosser head to oscillate.

13.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 12 wherein the flosser head further
comprises a toothpaste holder.

14.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The motorized flosser of claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein the
toothpaste holder is plastic.

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15.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 12 wherein the hollow portion of the elongated body further includes a battery.

16.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 12 wherein the pin defines an axis about which said flosser head oscillates.

17.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 16 wherein the piece of floss does not pass through said axis.

18.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 13 wherein the toothpaste holder is generally of a truncated conical shape.

19.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 12 wherein the flosser head may be locked in place with a locking mechanism.

20.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 12 further comprising a bite pad secured to said end portion of said body.

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21.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A motorized flosser comprising:

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a handle portion, an end portion and an intermediate portion therebetween;

a drive mechanism located within the handle portion of the elongated body;

a pin extending upwardly from the end portion of the elongated body;

a flosser head removably coupled to the end portion of the elongated body, the flosser head comprising a pair of spaced tines extending upwardly from a base, a receptacle in said base adapted to receive said pin and a piece of floss extending between the tines;

wherein the tines are configured to space the piece of floss from the longitudinal axis of the elongated body;

wherein activation of the drive mechanism causes the pin and attached flosser head to oscillate about a vertical axis.

22.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 21 wherein the flosser head further comprises a toothpaste holder.

23.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 21 wherein the piece of floss of the flosser head does not intersect the vertical axis.

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24.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 21 wherein the flosser head is removably secured to said elongated body with a locking mechanism.

25.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 21 wherein the intermediate portion of the body is removable from the handle portion of the body.

26.(ORIGINAL) The motorized flosser of claim 21 further comprising a bite pad secured to said end portion of said body.

27.(WITHDRAWN) A flosser head for use with a motorized flosser and adapted to be oscillated about an axis after being removably secured to said motorized flosser, said flosser head comprising:

a base including a circular disk located generally in a first plane;

a pair of spaced tines extending upwardly from the base, said tines being located in a second plane, said first plane intersecting said second plane at an angle other than ninety degrees; and

a piece of flexible flossing material extending between the tines.

28.(WITHDRAWN) The flosser head of claim 27 wherein each of said tines has a hole through an upper portion thereof and said piece of floss passes through said holes.

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29.(WITHDRAWN) The flosser head of claim 27 further comprising a flexible toothpaste holder secured to the base.

30.(WITHDRAWN) The flosser head of claim 27 further comprising a flexible toothpaste holder in a generally truncated conical shape.

31.(WITHDRAWN) The flosser head of claim 27 further comprising a flexible toothpaste holder located between the tines.

32.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of flossing teeth with a motorized flosser having a longitudinal axis and a flossing head including a pair of tines between which there extends a length of flossing material, the flossing material being spaced from the longitudinal axis of the motorized flosser, said method comprising:

activating the motorized flosser so that the flossing head oscillates arcuately; and
pressing the length of flossing material between two teeth while the flossing head continues to arcuately oscillate such that the length of flossing material wraps around a front part of a first tooth and a rear part of an adjacent second tooth and then about the rear part of the first tooth and a front part of the second tooth during each arcuate oscillation cycle.

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33.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32 further comprising inserting toothpaste into a toothpaste holder secured to the flosser head prior to activating the motorized flosser such that the teeth are cleaned by the toothpaste and the flossing material while simultaneously being flossed by the oscillating flossing material.

34.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32 wherein the tines of the flossing head and the flossing material move arcuately through an arc of approximate 60 degrees during each cycle.

35.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32 wherein the tines of the flossing head and the flossing material move arcuately through an arc of between 30 and 75 degrees during each cycle.

36.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32 wherein the flossing head oscillates at a frequency of between 2000 and 3000 cycles per minute.

37.(CANCELLED)

38.(CANCELLED)

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39.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of removing plaque and biofilm from the surface of teeth comprising:

activating an motorized flosser having a longitudinal axis and a removable flossing head so that the flosser head of the motorized flosser oscillates; and

pressing a piece of floss extending between and secured to two tines of the flossing head and spaced from the longitudinal axis between adjacent teeth while the flossing head continues to oscillate.

40.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 39 further comprising inserting toothpaste into a toothpaste holder secured to the flosser head prior to activating the motorized flosser.

41.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of removing plaque and biofilm from the surface of teeth comprising:

providing an motorized flosser having a longitudinal axis and a removable flossing head comprising a pair of spaced tines and a piece of floss extending therebetween and spaced from the longitudinal axis; [[,]]

activating the motorized flosser so that the flosser head of the motorized flosser oscillates; and

pressing the piece of floss between adjacent teeth while the flossing head continues to oscillate.

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42.(ORIGINAL) The method of claim 41 further comprising inserting toothpaste into a toothpaste holder secured to the flosser head prior to activating the motorized flosser.

43.(WITHDRAWN) A method of cleaning and flossing teeth so as to remove plaque and biofilm from the surface of the teeth, which method comprises:

inserting flossing material having toothpaste applied thereto between the teeth; and
simultaneously oscillating the flossing material and moving the flossing material vertically between the teeth.

44.(WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 43 such that the length of flossing material wraps around a front part of a first tooth and a rear part of a second tooth adjacent the first tooth and then about the rear part of the first tooth and a front part of the second tooth during each arcuate oscillation cycle.

45.(WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 43 wherein the flossing material oscillates at a frequency of between 2000 and 3000 cycles per minute.

46.(WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 43 wherein the flossing head oscillates at a frequency of approximately 2800 cycles per minute.

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47.(WITHDRAWN) A method of removing biofilm from teeth which comprises:

oscillating a length of flossing material;

applying toothpaste to the length of material; and

moving the length of flossing material vertically between the teeth while continuing the oscillation of the length of flossing material having toothpaste applied thereto.

48.(NEW) The motorized flosser of claim 1 wherein the tines extend generally perpendicularly relative to the longitudinal axis of the elongated body.

49.(NEW) The motorized flosser of claim 12 wherein the tines extend generally perpendicularly relative to the longitudinal axis of the elongated body.